

A new species of *Gastrodia* (gastrodieae, epidendroideae, orchidaceae) from the Maliau Basin Conservation Area, Sabah, Borneo

Abstract

Gastrodia Brown (1810: 330; Gastrodieae, Epidendroideae) comprises mycoheterotrophic orchids from throughout the temperate and tropical regions of Asia, Oceania, Madagascar and Africa (Chung & Hsu 2006, Cribb *et al.* 2010, Tan *et al.* 2012). The genus is characterized by fleshy tubers, as well as the absence of normal leaves, union of sepals and petals and two mealy pollinia that lack caudicles. Furthermore, many *Gastrodia* species within section *Codonanthus* (Schlechter 1911, Tuyama 1967) produce inflorescences that are only 3–15 cm in length at flowering (Chung & Hsu 2006) and, owing to their short flowering seasons and dwarf habits, are seldom noticed when flowering (Tuyama 1982, Suetsugu *et al.* 2012). The identification of *Gastrodia* species requires detailed observation of floral features, such as lip and column morphology, that are hidden within the perianth tube.